

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT, NOVEMBER 7, 1974

REFS: A(A) USEC A-130; (B) A-179

1. SUMMARY: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EC HELD ONE OF ITS INFREQUENT MEETINGS DEVOTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN BRUSSELS ON NOVEMBER 7, 1974. THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO AGREE ON A PROPOSED COMMUNITY DIRECTIVE ON THE TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATERS BUT DID ADOPT RESOLUTIONS ON THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE OILS AND ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH ENERGY PRODUCTION. DISCUSSIONS ALSO COVERED THE PROGRESS THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM ON THE ENVIRONMENT. FINALLY, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A RECOMMENDATION (NOT BINDING ON THE MEMBER STATES) CONCERNING THE "POLLUTER PAYS" PRINCIPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. SURFACE WATER. THE COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTERS FAILED TO ADOPT A DIRECTIVE WHICH WOULD HAVE SET CLEANLINESS STANDARDS TO BE ACHIEVED WITHIN 10 YEARS FOR SURFACE WATER PRIOR TO ITS PURIFICATION FOR DRINKING. TOWARD THE END OF THE SESSION THE DUTCH  
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WITHDREW THEIR EARLIER AGREEMENT BECAUSE THEY FOUND

THE DIRECTIVE TOO WEAK AND ALSO BECAUSE IT FAILED TO TREAT THE PROBLEMS OF TRANS-FRONTIER POLLUTION. THE DUTCH INTEND TO CONSIDER THE DIRECTIVE FURTHER IN THE HAGUE AND IT IS HOPED THAT AGREEMENT MAY BE REACHED IN THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER).

3. "POLLUTER PAYS" PRINCIPLE. THE COUNCIL, AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, ADOPTED A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MEMBER STATES CONFIRMING THE COMMUNITY DECLARATION OF NOVEMBER 23, 1973. (SEE REPAIRS.) (IN COMMUNITY PARLANCE A RECOMMENDATION CARRIES SLIGHTLY MORE WEIGHT THAN A DECLARATION BUT IS NOT BINDING ON THE MEMBER STATES AS IS A DIRECTIVE AMPLIFIED BY REGULATIONS.) THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATION REAFFIRMS THE NEED FOR UNIFORM PRINCIPLES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. BEFORE TAKING SPECIFIC ACTION TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE OF "POLLUTER PAYS", HOWEVER, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER COMMUNITY POLICIES. THE COUNCIL EMPHASIZED THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION IS ONLY AN INITIAL STEP IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AND THAT FURTHER EFFORTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

4. DISPOSAL OF WASTE OILS. THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A DIRECTIVE ON THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE OILS WHEREBY MEMBER STATES MUST TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO INSURE THE SAFE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (BY RECYCLING) OF THESE WASTES. DISCHARGE OF USED OILS INTO WATER SYSTEMS OR THE SOIL WILL BE PROHIBITED AS WILL DISPOSAL BY BURNING IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO CAUSE AIR POLLUTION. THE MEMBER STATES HAVE TWO YEARS IN WHICH TO IMPLEMENT THIS DIRECTIVE AND A FURTHER FOUR YEARS IN WHICH TO APPLY IT, IN STAGES, TO THE FIRMS CONCERNED.

5. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NEED TO BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WITH THE INCREASING NEED FOR ENERGY. MEMBER STATES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNCLASSIFIED

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REQUIREMENTS INTO ACCOUNT IN ALL ENERGY POLICY CONSIDERATIONS. COREPER IS TO EXAMINE THE PRELIMINARY COMMISSION REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT SO THAT THE COUNCIL MIGHT EXAMINE PROPOSALS IN ORDER TO PHASE IN SPECIFIC PROJECTS BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 1975 AND THE END OF 1980.

6. ACTION PROGRAM ON THE ENVIRONMENT. THE COUNCIL HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH ALL

DELEGATES EXPRESSING THE NEED TO CONTINUE EFFORTS IN THIS AREA AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO REINFORCE COMMUNITY ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

7. MISCELLANEOUS. FINALLY, THE COUNCIL INSTRUCTED COREPER TO WORK OUT THE FORMAL DECISIONS REQUIRED FOR ORGANIZING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PARIS AND STRASBOURG CONVENTIONS.GREENWALD

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